ACHIEVEMENTS, ACQUISITIONS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
1990-2001

Acquisitions:

Many valuable and distinctive rare books were added to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in the decade by donation, including, among others, a number of incunables, first editions and rare printings of books by Jane Austen, Anthony Trollope, Walt Whitman and other major authors, and many private press and artist books, including the complete oeuvre of the publisher Vincent FitzGerald & Company. The value of gifts in-kind, including these books, regularly exceeded $1 million annually for the period in question. These donations were matched by purchases from endowed funds, allowing for major additions to the Gonzalez Lodge (classics), David Eugene Smith (mathematics and astronomy), Jack Harris Samuels (English Literature), Robert Halsband (eighteenth-century English literature), Frances Henne (Children's Literature), Albert Ulmann (fine printing), and other collections. Outstanding book purchases include Samuel Beckett's copy of *Waiting for Godot*; the first edition of Edgar Allan Poe's *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*; an illustrated 1545 edition of the *Iliad*, long considered one of the most beautiful books produced in the sixteenth century; and a run of the London *Intelligencer*, 1663-1666, that contains the first published mention of New York, as well as news of the Great Fire of London. For the first time in many years, some medieval manuscript items were purchased by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, including a rare copy of Boethius, *De Consolatione Philosophiae* in Italian from the end of the fifteenth century.

Manuscript acquisitions covered a broad range of subject areas. They included major new additions to the Tennessee Williams papers, the Frederic Dannay (Ellery Queen) papers, and the Robert Wilson papers. Other large groups of papers acquired by donation and purchase included the Bella Spewack Papers; the papers of Marshall Peter Chang (the man who arrested Chiang Kai-Shek in the famous Xian Incident of 1935); the Otto Rank Papers; the Harrison Salisbury, Fred Friendly, A.H. Raskin and Murray Kempton papers (all relating to the history of modern journalism); 4,000 letters from and to the English poet Edmund Blunden; the Diana Trilling papers; the papers of lyricist John LaTouche and poet William

Bronk; the William Goldman papers (including screenplays and storyboards for such movies as *The Princess Bride*, *Marathon Man*, and *All the President's Men*; the Vera Blackwell and Charles Crane papers (Bakhmeteff Archive); the papers of British playwrights Giles Cooper and John Hall; the papers of novelists Paul Auster, John Howard Griffin (the author of *Black Like Me*) and the recently rediscovered American satirist and playwright Dawn Powell; and additions to the existing collections of Frederick Rolfe (Baron Corvo), Stephen Spender, Noël Coward, and Graham Greene. One particularly interesting enrichment to the Beat poet papers was the manuscript of a prose poem addressed to Hart Crane, jointly composed by Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. Most recently, a 2001 gift brought us the papers of the former head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Arthur Levitt.

Among the corporate or institutional archives added to the Library and already heavily drawn upon for research are the papers of six New York City settlement houses (among them Union Settlement House, Goddard Riverside Settlement House, and East Side House); the archives of the Carnegie Corporation and two related Carnegie philanthropies, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Peace; the archives of Group Research, Inc., which include an important name/subject index relating to right wing party politics in the years from 1964 to 1995; the Whitney Young and M. Moran Weston papers; the papers of the Chiswick Bookshop; the publishing archives of Vanguard Press and Stein & Day, and those of the literary agent, Curtis Brown, Ltd; the Urban League archives and the archives of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Significant additions were also made to existing collections, among them Random House, Inc., and Harper and Row. The papers of the John Jay Papers Project were also acquired when the offices of that project, formerly on the 2nd floor of Butler, closed down in January, 1997.

Works of art and miscellaneous acquisitions included the archives of New Yorker cartoonist Charles Saxon; 100 oversize *Tass* posters (made for Moscow store windows and billboards during World War II); additions to the Arthur Rackham and Joseph Urban collections, among them portions of a mural saved from the Ziegfeld Theatre when it was demolished in 1967; 23 contemporary oil portraits of English literary figures; a copy of a life-size portrait of English poet Phillip Sydney; seventeenth-century and later playing cards, part

of the Albert Field collection; and three impressive oil paintings by Lydia Gibson Minor, including a portrait of her husband, Robert Minor, one of the founders of the American Communist party, whose papers are held by the Library.

Facilities and Stack Management:

The Peter and Edith Chang Reading Room, donated by Marshall and Mrs. Chang, opened in October 1996. The Chang room fulfilled a long-standing departmental dream of having a classroom and seminar room in RBML, for the use of faculty members and classes, as well as space for exhibitions and work on the Chang papers. The room, which allows for computer, audio, and visual presentations, has seen increasingly heavy use since it opened, serving as a venue for lectures, Friends group meetings, and conferences, as well as classes.

Other facilities work within the decade included replacing a water-damaged floor in the Donors Room and upgrading the humidification system there; installing and upgrading an extensive electronic security system in the stacks and reading rooms that includes motions detectors, cameras and alarms to alert the Campus Security office of unauthorized entries; moving the Papyrus Study room and setting up Room 602 as an office for the APIS project; moving the staff locker room; repairing numerous roof and stack leaks; and installing equipment related to the in-progress renovations in Butler.

Major stack changes included the shifting of cage walls, the re-establishment of the West Annex (stack 12) as a processing area, and the movement of the heavily-used Bakhmeteff collections from the relatively inaccessible 15th floor to the 12th floor. Approximately 2,600 linear feet of manuscripts and over 30,000 archival copies of Columbia PhD dissertations, were sent to interim off-site storage in 1999.

The seminar room and foyer of the Herbert H. Lehman Suite in the School of International Affairs building was cleaned and refurbished in 1999.

Preservation:

In addition to regular, on-going rehousing of collections in acid-free folders, acid-free boxes, pamphlet holders, and both custom and pre-made preservation cases, routine

preservation work was undertaken on many of the items identified for exhibitions or loan. Items cleaned and rehoused by curators and/or the conservatorial staff not related to exhibitions included South Asian Shadow puppets, masks, the Joseph Urban sketches and renderings, and oversized American theater posters (via a cooperative grant from New York State). In preparation for the upheavals threatened by the final phase of Butler renovation, loose items on the shelves of stack 15, including oversize Bakhmeteff archive materials and the Pulitzer Prize scrapbooks, continue to be systematically boxed. Disaster recovery activities included mold treatment and the airing of collections of books and papers damaged by internal floods, roof leaks, and steam pipe malfunctions.

Customer order microfilming - which included photography of a rare series of anthropological field notebooks describing the Hopi in the 1880s - was supplemented by several microfilming projects, some done with supplementary funds from vendors. Collections filmed included the Hebrew manuscript collection (filmed for the Jewish National & University of Jerusalem), the Townsend Civil War volumes, and portions of the Russian newspaper collection and the E.R.A. Seligman collection of pamphlets on economic history. A New York State Preservation grant was received to create copy negatives from glass and acetate negatives in the Joseph Urban Papers and a variety of Bakhmeteff Library collections, and to microfilm many significant items, among them the papers of the Federated Press, the first Labor news service in the country, and papers of the League of Women Voters of New York City.

Public Service and Reference Use:

On average, between 4,500 and 5,500 reader visits were paid annually to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Well over a thousand additional people every year visited the Rare Book Library for classes, lectures, exhibition openings and related programs. Each year, two million or more manuscript items and upwards of 8,500 books circulated to readers in the reading rooms. Despite the greater availability of electronic research resources, readership has kept steady and in fact is on the rise. Although many researchers are from the Columbia community, national and international readership continues to grow. In FY 2000, readers came from England, Germany, Australia, France, Japan, Russia, Peru, Hungary, Korea, Haiti, Philippines, Israel, Norway and the Netherlands.

Thanks to active liaison work, faculty interest in the collections has also continued to grow. Classes held over the decade include regular sessions for beginning graduate students in English and history, as well as specialized instructional and "show-and-tell" sessions tailored for individual instructors. A well-subscribed semester-length class in Latin paleography, co-taught by Professor Carmela Franklin of the Department of Classics and the Curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts Consuelo Dutschke, has been held twice. Professor Elizabeth Blackmar's popular course, "Gilded-Age New York," which brings the students in for 5 two-hour sessions of work on primary sources in a variety of formats, providing them with the raw material for presentations and papers on topics related to specific manuscript and book collections, has been held here twice as well, and will be also offered in FY2002.

In the last year, these programs have included at least twelve "lab" sessions for the Core Curriculum, giving freshman and sophomore students and their instructors the opportunity to examine the canonical texts they are exposed to in the classroom from an artifactual perspective.

Lectures for Friends, Associates, and the University community have been held regularly since 1993, and have drawn large audiences - up to 100 people on some occasions. Among the topics addressed have been chemise bindings in the middle ages, early translations of the Protestant Bible in England, the making of the Thomson/Stein opera "Four Saints in Three Acts," the activities of Varian Fry and the Emergency Relief Committee during World War II, the "Elephant" Folios of John James Audubon, the prints of William Hogarth, and the films of Pare Lorentz. An annual Book Arts lecture has been held each January for the last seven years, invariably bringing a large crowd to hear the speaker and enjoy the featured exhibition. Two conferences, "Publishers Archives in the 1990s", jointly sponsored by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and "Liberalism Under Fire: New York in the 1950s" were held here in 1996 and 2001, respectively. Both were well-attended and attracted favorable notice to the Library.

Exhibitions and Loans:

Since 1990, as many as six major exhibitions, not including small *ad hoc* presentations connected to events or conference, have opened each year. Topics for these have ranged from Tennessee Williams, Stephen Crane, and Thomas Merton to the books of Vincent FitzGerald and Company and photographs from the Bakhmeteff Archives. Other topics have included the writings of Sam and Bella Spewack; the award books of the American Institute of Graphic Arts; the Columbia historical map collection; the art of Florine Stettheimer; early Netherlandish printed books; the photographs of filmmaker Pare Lorentz; books of the Core Curriculum; the Vanguard Press; *Kulchur* magazine and its founder, Lita Hornick; Gold-stamped publishers bindings; the inscribed or annotated book; medieval documents; and the career of *New York Times* journalist Harrison Salisbury. Although funds have not been available to produce as many exhibition catalogs as we would have liked, substantial catalogues were produced for *Thomas Merton: The Poet and the Contemplative Life*; *The World on Paper: A Celebration of the Mapmaker's Art*; *In Collaboration: The Publications of Vincent FitzGerald and Company*; and *From Russia to Kiss Me Kate: The Careers of Sam and Bella Spewack.* An exhibition of Rare Book and Manuscript Library materials at the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Galleries, entitled *Architect of Dreams: The Theatrical Vision of Joseph Urban*, was accompanied by a catalog edited by Columbia professor, Arnold Aronson. Many of these exhibitions received widespread coverage in the press, drawing, as a result, viewers from throughout the metropolitan area.

A major milestone for the Library was reached with the publication in 1992 of *A Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Columbia University* (Boston: G.K. Hall & Company). Also issued by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in the decade, as part of a series of occasional publications was *Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at Columbia University* (New York: Columbia University Libraries, 1993). A volume of the proceedings of the *New York Under Fire* conference is scheduled to appear from the SUNY press within the next year.

Since the emergence of the Internet, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library has been working on supplementing its onsite exhibitions with digital images on the Web. *Judging A*

Book by Its Cover: Gold-Stamped Publisher's Bindings in the Nineteenth Century and *From Type to Print: The Book and the Type Specimen Book* both have sites in development.

In addition to Columbia exhibitions, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library has lent items for exhibitions to the Whitney Museum, the Grolier Club, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Field Museum (Chicago), the Smithsonian Museum, the Bruce Museum (Greenwich), the Brandywine Conservancy, the Brigham Young University Museum, the American Federation of Arts, the Equitable Gallery (New York), the Yale University Center for British Art, the Virginia Historical Society, the Yeshiva University Museum, the Library of Performing Arts of the New York Public Library, Artis, Inc. (Japan) and the Postal Museum of France, among others.

Grants and Fundraising:

The following endowments were established in the 1990/00s: The Carnegie Corporation/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Endowment; the Whitney M. Young Endowment; the Louis B. Rosenblum Endowment; the Kenneth A. Lohf Endowment; the William Bronk Endowment; the Otto Rank Foundation Endowment; the Paul Oskar Kristeller Endowment, and the Sighle Kennedy Endowment. In addition, gifts intended to allow the Rare Book and Manuscript Library to process designated collections were received from a variety of individuals and corporations. Among these were gifts for the Fred Friendly Papers; the Murray Kempton Papers; the Ivan Morris Papers; the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Archives; the Arthur Levitt Papers; the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction Archives; the Mary Lasker Papers; the Morris Schnapper papers; the Jane Howard Papers; and the Sam and Bella Spewack Papers. Sylvia and Joseph Radov made two generous gifts in 1999 and 2000 to enable us to acquire and maintain a complete collection of the books of Vincent FitzGerald & Company.

In addition to the above monies, approximately $1,300,000 was received for grant-funded projects. Grants received from the National Endowment for Humanities included $113,507 in 1993 to catalog the Plimpton Medieval Manuscript collection, plus a $15,000 supplementary grant in 1994; $220,000 in 1995 to catalog and preserve the Joseph Urban Archives; $200,129 in 1997 to continue cataloging the Plimpton collection; and $150,000 in

2000 for the creation of a Digital Image Database of the papers of John Jay. In 1999, $110,000 was awarded to the Libraries as part of a grant for the Digital Scriptorium led by the University of California at Berkeley. A grant of $241,414 (not included in the above total) was received by the Preservation Division for the reformatting and preservation storage of tapes from the Language and Culture Archive of Ashkenazic Jewry, along with the New York State Preservation grants previously described.

Other grants received include $225,000 from the Mellon Foundation as Columbia's share of the effort to create the Digital Scriptorium (1995); and several grants from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation: $15,000 in 1995 to supplement funds for the cataloging of the Plimpton manuscripts; $65,000 in 1996 to supplement the Joseph Urban project; and $80,000 in 1999 for the creation of online finding aids for selected collections from the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum archives. In 1998, the Florence Gould Foundation awarded the Rare Book and Manuscript Library $25,000 for the preservation of the Joan of Arc collection. Other grants include $41,000 over five years from the New York Times Foundation for collections processing; $5,700 from the Leo Lande Foundation for the creation of a catalog of the Boris Sapir papers; and $25,000 from the Marjorie Boyer family. The Carnegie Corporation has made annual gifts to support the processing of its collections since 1995; the Herbert H. Lehman Foundation made a one-time gift of $25,000 for its collections in 1994 and additional gifts in the following three years.

The Friends of the Library, responsible for many gifts and gifts-in-kind during previous years, dramatically changed its focus and direction in 1993, and was no longer under the administration of Rare Book and Manuscript Library staff. In the years that followed two new groups were slowly developed to provide intellectual and financial support to RBML. The Associates, founded in 1994, is a loosely organized group of non-dues paying patrons who have expressed interest in RBML collections and programs. More than 500 names are included on the Associates List. Since its founding, voluntary end-of-the year contributions have grown. In 1999/2000, more than $14,000 was received in gifts. The second group, the Stephen Whitney Phoenix Society, met first in 1999. Organized at the request of a library supporter who believed that additional funds could be raised for books and conservation among high level donors, the SWPS met informally two times in 1999/00,

and three times in 00/01. Donations from the Society, which suggests a $1,000 annual gift for membership, currently stand at $17,000.

Digital Initiatives:

In addition to online exhibition projects, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library has developed and moved ahead on several digital projects: the Digital Scriptorium; the Electronic Access to Medieval Manuscripts (EAMMS) project; the John Jay Papers Image Database; and the development of EAD conformant Finding Aids for Internet distribution.

The Digital Scriptorium project, begun in 1995 by Columbia and the University of California, Berkeley, was developed with funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, first awarded in 1996. An online database of images from medieval manuscripts, searchable by title, part, author, scribe, country of origin, date and a variety of subject terms, the Scriptorium presents, in effect an electronic catalogue of library collections. Currently comprising nearly 10,000 images from the Berkeley and Columbia collections, the database will soon include images of the medieval and Renaissance manuscript collections of the Huntington Library, the New York Public Library, the University of Texas Library and the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, among others. The list of new partners continues to grow. The DS is very much an unfinished project. A grant has been submitted this month for funds to create an improved user interface, and ongoing investigations of alternate distribution possibilities are underway.

The EAMMS project, headed by the Curator of Medieval and Renaissance collections, Consuelo Dutschke, was also funded by the Mellon Foundation. Its goal, to create a Document Type Description (DTD) for Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, is close to realization: the DTD has been completed, with the help of an international committee established through the TEI or Text-Encoding Initiative, and is now being tested in a variety of libraries in America and abroad.

The John Jay Papers Digital Imaging project evolved from the decision to postpone editorial work on the John Jay Papers. In order to make the work of the John Jay project more widely available, a proposal was sent to the National Endowment for the Humanities

for the creation of an online database, comprising the project accession records, searchable in a variety of ways, along with images of the more than 13,000 documents in the collection. The project was funded in the spring of 2000, and is expected to reach completion in 2002.

A less glamorous initiative, undertaken largely with internal Library funding, was the development and implementation of EAD-conformant online finding aids, beginning in 1997. Over 100 (of approximately 3,000) finding aids have now been made available online, thanks to the hard work of the staff in developing software programs that allow the conversion of electronic finding aids in a variety of formats into web-available research tools that meet national standards. Many of these finding aids are available nationally through the RLG Archival Materials Database. All new processing work is now organized to result in the creation of an online access tool. Thanks to a 1999 grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, finding aids from approximately 30 additional collections relating to the history of theater will be added to the RBML website by the summer of 2001.

Miscellaneous Events of the Decade:

Activities and advocacy for library interests following the theft of $1.3 million worth of Library materials in 1994 resulted in a landmark decision and opinion by Judge Lewis A. Kaplan, United States District Judge, in 1998. The opinion, which advocates the use of the concept of cultural worth in establishing guidelines for sentencing in cases of library theft, has had a strong impact on courts across the country.

The Herbert H. Lehman Suite was refurbished and its programs re-directed in 1999. The new Curator, whose mission is to transform the Lehman Suite into a more active center for the study of issues associated with Governor Lehman and his colleagues, began work in January of 2000, and has successfully initiated programs and expanded collections.

After the John Jay Papers publication project was put on hold for financial reasons in 1997, the contents of the John Jay office, including some 13,000 photocopies of Jay documents, were transferred to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. In 2000, following the receipt of an NEH award, a project editor and assistant were appointed to fulfill the

goals established by the terms of the grant. Plans are being formulated to issue at least one letterpress volume of selected letters in the near future.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History chose the Rare Book and Manuscript Library as one of the sites of its annual fellowships. Starting in December, 1999, up to ten Gilder Lehrman fellows per year have been receiving stipends for research in the Library collections. This is the first fellowship program established at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE

In 1995, ties between the Oral History Research Office and the Rare Book and Manuscript Library were formally strengthened. The OHRO transcripts are stored in RBML stacks and used by readers on the Rare Book Reading Room. Oral History projects and policies are reviewed by the Director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and plans are currently underway for a closer integration of access services.

Two reports highlighting OHRO achievements in the periods 1990-1996 and 1996-2001 are attached.

Jean Ashton
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